



**2010
Competition Rules**

General Guidelines:

- The Swing Dance USA Competition is open to all skill levels allowing dancers at different stages in their dance careers to compete with their peers.
- Prizes will be awarded from accumulated competition fees and sponsorships, and the amount awarded will be determined on the day of the competition.
- All competitions must be entered as a male (lead) and female (follow) couple, except the Jack and Jill, which is entered as an individual, and the Team Showcase, which is entered as a team of a minimum of 3 couples.
- Not permitted
 - Dancing as both Advanced and Amateur and in the same division (i.e., doing both Advanced and Amateur Lindy with different partners)
 - Dancing twice with different partners in the same division. The exceptions are Showcase and Team, where a Team member may dance on more than one Team, and participants may be in more than one Showcase routine with a different partner
- Participants must wear their assigned numbers on their backs during all competitions, with the exception of the team competitions. In competitions entered as a couple, only the lead must wear the number.
- The Chairman of Judges will clarify questions and resolve all issues concerning the competition. All prizes are awarded by the Chairman of Judges, and all judging decisions are final. The maximum number of entries allowed per competition will be the decision of the Chairman of Judges, who has the option to cancel a competition if an insufficient number of entries have been made.
- All competition performances must be danced to music selected by the Competition DJ, with the exception of the finals for the Championship Showcase and Team Showcase, which will be danced to music brought in by the participants in mp3 format on a CD.

Competitor Responsibilities:

- In order to compete, competitors must have one of the following:
 - Ultimate Weekend Pass
 - Workshop pass for one day and evening ticket for the day of the competition
 - Tickets for 2 of the 3 evening shows/dances.
- Competitors must demonstrate good sportsmanship both on and off the floor.
- Competitors should arrive at the designated performance area at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the competition.
- Sign up and Check In is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 7pm to 8pm or Saturday 12 pm to 1 pm at the Competition Registration Table. On the day of their competition, all competitors are required to:
 - Register to compete
 - Pay \$15 entry fee per person per competition for all but the Couples Championship Showcase which is \$20 per person.
 - Sign any necessary waivers
 - Acknowledge agreement with the official rules
 - Contestants under the age of 18 may only enter with the signed consent of a parent or guardian

Skill Levels:

Swing Dance USA contestant skill levels are designated to allow for fair competition.

- **Amateur dancer** – an individual who has not been contracted to teach and has not placed 1st or 2nd in any major national 3-day swing dance competition.
- **Advanced dancer** – an individual who has several years of dancing experience, or a dance instructor or a national dance competitor. You **MUST** enter the Advanced division if you have finished 1st or 2nd in a Pro division or 1st in an Amateur division at any major national 3-day swing dance competition.

Judging Criteria:

- **Teamwork** – Swing dancing is a connected, partner dance. Demonstration of this connection and the appearance of lead/follow type dancing between partners are expected. Indicators of poor teamwork include one partner ignoring, out-dancing, or jeopardizing the safety of the other partner.
- **Musicality** – Good musical interpretation consists of adjusting the flow and style of your dance to fit the mood, tempo, and rhythm variations of the music being played. Dancers will be judged on their ability to anticipate, identify, and interpret the nuances in the music throughout their performance.
- **Rhythm** – Swing dancing begins on the downbeat. Dancers will be judged on their ability to remain on the beat as well as their ability to match their dance style with syncopated beats.
- **Technique** – Competitors will be judged on their ability to execute movements comprising their dance. This includes control of balance and weight, foot placement, body lines, and ability to spin.
- **Presentation** – Competitors are expected to create an atmosphere of excitement for spectators by generating interest in the performance. Competitors should appear to be engrossed and excited by the music being played.
- **Sportsmanship** – Competitors are expected to maintain a positive attitude through their dance as well as while they are watching the performance of others. They should be cordial and encouraging to all other competitors throughout the event.
- **Errors or Violations** - Deductions will be made for each error or violation of the above criteria at the discretion of the judges observing the error. Such errors or violations include use of apparent choreographed movements in competitions that prohibit them, dancing to the upbeat instead of the down beat, or a breach of good sportsmanship like conduct.
- **Feedback** - After all of the titles have been awarded for each competition, competitors may request their final scores and rank from the Chairman of Judges. At that point in time, they may also request a critique of their dancing for future competitions, but it is at the discretion of each judge to give whatever feedback they deem appropriate.

Competitions and Divisions

- **Jack and Jill Open Division**— Dancers of all levels may participate in this contest, but dancers may not participate in both open and advanced divisions. Individuals may dance any style of swing, but must dance lead-follow, no routines. Individuals will be paired with 3 randomly selected partners to dance to slow, medium, and fast songs lasting up to 1 minute each in the preliminaries. The top individuals will be moved into the finals, where they will be paired with 1 randomly selected partner to dance to a song lasting up to 2 minutes. Songs will be chosen by the competition DJ. Note: In the event of an uneven number of leads and follows, late registrants may not be eligible to compete.
- **Jack and Jill Advanced Division**- Advanced dancers may participate in this contest. Individuals may dance any style of swing, but must dance lead-follow, no routines. Individuals will be paired with 3 randomly selected partners to dance to slow, medium, and fast songs lasting up to 1 minute each in the preliminaries. The top individuals will be moved into the finals, where they will be paired with 1 randomly selected partner to dance to a song lasting up to 2 minutes. Songs will be chosen by the competition DJ. Note: In the event of an uneven number of leads and follows, late registrants may not be eligible to compete.
- **Strictly Lindy Amateur Division** – This is a lead-follow dance competition - no routines. Songs will be chosen by the competition DJ. Prelim tempos are 130/165 bpm lasting up to 2 minutes each. The top couples will be moved into the Phrase-Battle finals, where they will dance to one continuous looped song (185-205 bpm). When couples are announced, they will enter the circle two times for 8 counts of 8 to dazzle the audience, followed by an all-skate until the song ends.
- **Strictly Lindy Advanced Division** - This is a lead-follow dance competition - no routines. Songs will be chosen by the competition DJ. Prelim tempos are 160/185 bpm lasting up to 2 minutes each. The top couples will be moved into the Phrase-Battle finals, where they will dance to one continuous looped song (200-220 bpm). When couples are announced, they will enter the circle two times for 8 counts of 8 to dazzle the audience, followed by an all-skate until the song ends.
- **Balboa** – Couples may only dance Balboa and Bal-Swing in this division. This is an open division to dancers at any level. Songs will be chosen by the competition DJ. Prelim is medium tempo lasting up to 2 minutes. The top couples will be moved into the finals, where they will dance all-skate to one fast-tempo song for up to 2 minutes.
- **Jitterbug** – Focused on fun and improvisation. Open to everyone. Couples may jump around, cut loose and go crazy. Songs will be chosen by the competition DJ. Couples will dance to a medium/fast song lasting up to 2 minutes in the preliminaries. The top couples will be moved into the finals, where they will dance to a faster song around 190 bpm for 1-2 minutes.
- **Hellzapoppin'** – Fast Lindy- crazy energetic and entertaining competition. This competition has no rules, and is open to all competitors of all levels. The emphasis is on social dancing skills, so any dance move or style is allowed. A portion of the judging is based on audience approval. Interaction between the audience and competitors will often increase the score. Comic devices such as silly walks, impersonations, or showy and physically impressive “stunt” moves create a call and response in which audiences and fellow competitors encourage dancers with cheers, shouts, applause, and other feedback. This competition involves turn-taking phrase-battles and shine/all-skate formats to really crazy fast lindy music. Airsteps, tricks, whatever you want.
- **Swing Dance USA Championship Showcase** – Couples perform to their own music and dance any style of swing in this division. The Championship Showcase may include separate entrances, breakaways, side by side movements, drops, leans, aerials, and acrobatics. Couples dance to one slow and one fast song lasting up to 2 minutes each in the preliminaries. The top couples will be moved into the finals, where they will dance to music of their choice for 2-3 minutes in length. Winners receive \$750 in prize money.
- **Team Showcase** – Teams perform to their own music and dance any style of swing. Teams are comprised of a minimum of 3 couples. Teams will dance a choreographed routine to a song of their choice that is 2-3 minutes in length. Teams will be especially judged for showmanship, team spirit, creativity, and enthusiastic support for all competitors.